



The 100% UNOFFICIAL  
**QUICK Guide**  
to the EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

O Guia rápido 100% Não-Oficial  
do EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

FOR  
COMMENTATORS  
BROADCASTERS  
MEDIA  
&  
FANS

COMPILED BY LISA-JAYNE LEWIS & SAMANTHA ROSS  
COMPILADO POR LISA-JAYNE LEWIS E SAMANTHA ROSS

WITH ELEANOR CHALKLEY & RACHEL HUMPHREY

## 2018 Host City: Lisbon

Since the Neolithic period, people have been making their homes where the Tagus meets the Atlantic. The sheltered harbour conditions have made Lisbon a major port for two millennia, and as a result of the maritime exploits of the Age of Discoveries Lisbon became the centre of an imperial Portugal. Modern Lisbon is a diverse, exciting, creative city where the ancient and modern mix, and adventure hides around every corner.

## 2018 Venue: The Altice Arena

Sitting like a beautiful UFO on the banks of the River Tagus, the Altice Arena has hosted events as diverse as technology forum Web Summit, the 2002 World Fencing Championships and Kylie Minogue's Portuguese debut concert.

With a maximum capacity of 20000 people and an innovative wooden internal structure intended to invoke the form of Portuguese carrack, the arena was constructed specially for Expo '98 and very well served by the Lisbon public transport system.

## 2018 Hosts: Sílvia Alberto, Filomena Cautela, Catarina Furtado, Daniela Ruah

Sílvia Alberto is a graduate of both Lisbon Film and Theatre School and RTP's *Clube Disney*. She has hosted Portugal's edition of *Dancing With The Stars* and since 2008 has been the face of *Festival da Canção*.

Filomena Cautela is the funniest person on Portuguese TV. Since 2015 she has delivered wickedly surreal humour and in-depth interviewing on late night talk show *5 Para a Meia-Noite*.

Catarina Furtado's multi-stranded career incorporates dance, film, television and journalism. She also lends her support to reproductive health campaigns as a UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador.

Daniela Ruah stars as Kensi Blye in US crime procedural *NCIS: Los Angeles*. Her media career has taken in a winning stint on Portugal's edition of *Dancing With The Stars* and starring as the voice of Merida in the Portuguese edition of Disney's *Brave*.

# Medals Table

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1<sup>st</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
3<sup>rd</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Eugent Bushpepa</b>
Title (Albanian)	<b>Mall</b>
Title (English)	<b>Yearning</b>
Language	Albanian
Composers	Eugent Bushpepa

Artist Profile	Born in Albania, Eugent began playing guitar in the 5th grade. He moved to Bologna, Italy when he finished school to study medicine with a view to becoming a dentist. Upon returning to Albania in 2006, he began to play in local pubs and clubs and his musical career took off. He's played in several bands and is currently signed on as an adviser on <i>The Voice of Albania</i> .
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Song Description	Mall is a folk rock song, notably in the unusual time signature of 7/4, which means the song gives a feeling of always driving forward, taking the listener with it.
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Selection Process	The first national final of the season was Albania's <i>Festival i Këngës</i> which took place in December. The final consisted of 14 competitors and the winner was chosen 100% by jury vote.
Date Selected	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2017

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2004
Years Competed	2004 – present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	15
Best Position	5 <sup>th</sup> (2012)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Lindita / World
Finishing Position	NQ

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Sevak Khanagyan</b>
Title (Armenian)	<b>Qami</b>
Title (English)	<b>Wind</b>
Language	Armenian
Composers	Sevak Khanagyan, Anna Danielyan, Viktorya Maloyan

Artist Profile	Sevak is a Russian-Armenian singer and songwriter who competed in the first season of the Russian version of <i>The X Factor</i> , the following year he competed in and won <i>The X Factor Ukraine</i> . He is now a coach on <i>The Voice of Armenia</i> .
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Song Description	Qami is a ballad in the Armenian language, which we have not heard at Eurovision since 2009. Sevak's voice is the predominant feature of the song, which uses a soft backing track that builds to an epic climax.
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Selection Process	Armenia once again used their selection show <i>Depi Evratesil</i> , which consisted of two Semifinal rounds and a Final. The winner was determined by 50% jury and 50% public televote.
Date Selected	25 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2006
Years Competed	2006 - 2011, 2013 - present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	12
Best Position	4 <sup>th</sup> (2008 & 2014)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Artsvik / Fly With Me
Finishing Position	18 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Jessica Mauboy</b>
Title	<b>We Got Love</b>
Language	English
Composers	Anthony Egizii, David Musumeci, Jessica Mauboy

Artist Profile	Jess returns to the Eurovision stage, having been featured as an interval act in 2014. The Darwin native rose to fame in 2006 when she finished as runner-up in the 4th season of <i>Australian Idol</i> . Since then, Jess has become one of Australia's most successful female artists with three hit albums. She was also the support act for Beyoncé on the Australian leg of her I Am... World Tour.
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Song Description	We Got Love is a mid-tempo piece of pop with a positive message, that can be adapted to a number of situations. Initially thought of as a celebration song for the legislation passing marriage equality in Australia, Jess has spoken about it being a call for equality for the indigenous people of Australia.
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Selection Process	Both the artist and the song were internally selected by broadcaster SBS.
Date Artist Announced	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
Date Song Announced	9 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2015
Years Competed	2015 – present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	4
Best Position	2 <sup>nd</sup> (2016)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Isaiah Firebrace
Finishing Position	9 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Cesár Sampson</b>
Title	<b>Nobody But You</b>
Language	English
Composers	Borislav Milanov, Sebastian Arman, Joacim Persson, Johan Alkenäs

Artist Profile	Cesár is no stranger to Eurovision, having been a backing singer for Bulgaria in 2016 & 2017. Cesár is from Linz and has worked for many years as a social worker. He is part of the team at Symphonix International, a Vienna based music production and events company.
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Song Description	Nobody But You is an R&B/Gospel fusion song produced by Symphonix. It's anthemic in style with more than a touch of the Hozier about it.
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Selection Process	Both the artist and the song were internally selected by ORF.
Date Artist Announced	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
Date Song Announced	9 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1957
Years Competed	1957-1968, 1971-1972, 1976-1997, 1999-2000, 2002-2005, 2007, 2011 – present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	51
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1966, 2014)
Host Venue	Vienna 1967, Vienna 2015

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Nathan Trent / Running On Air
Finishing Position	16 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Aisel</b>
Title	<b>X My Heart</b>
Language	English
Composers	Music: Dimitris Kontopoulos, Tim Bran. Lyrics: Sandra Bjurman

Artist Profile	28 year old Aysel Mammadova sings under her stage name of Aisel. She is from Baku, where she sings and performs as a jazz and soul singer.
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Song Description	A mid-tempo pop song with, let's face it, not the most sophisticated of lyrics! But the entry is certainly joyful, sunny and uplifting.
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Selection Process	Both the artist and the song were internally selected by iTV.
Date Artist Announced	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
Date Song Announced	4 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2008
Years Competed	2008 – present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	11
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (2011)
Host Venue	Baku 2012

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Dihaj / Skeletons
Finishing Position	14th



## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Alekseev</b>
Title	<b>Forever</b>
Language	English
Composers	Kyrylo Pavlov, Evhen Matyushenko

Artist Profile	Alekseev is a Ukrainian singer and songwriter who was a semi-finalist in the fourth season of The Voice Ukraine. He initially submitted an application to represent Ukraine at Eurovision 2018, but he revoked his bid and entered the national final for neighbouring Belarus (known in Eurovision circles as false-flagging!).
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Song Description	The most recent iteration of this song's arrangement starts with a simple piano-based melody, but it builds to a sweeping tale of gothic romance.
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Selection Process	From 95 submitted entries, 10 were selected by the broadcaster to make up the one-night national final, which was determined by a combined jury and public vote.
Date Selected	16 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2004
Years Competed	2004 – present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	15
Best Position	6 <sup>th</sup> (2007)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	NAVIband / Story of My Life
Finishing Position	17 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist (Age)	<b>Sennek</b>
Title	<b>A Matter of Time</b>
Language	English
Composers	Laura Groeseneken, Alex Callier, Maxime Tribèche

Artist Profile	Sennek (real name Laura Groeseneken) is an up-and-coming singer and songwriter from the town of Leuven in central Belgium. Whilst working on her growing musical career (which includes collaborations with Ozark Henry and the group Hooverphonic), Laura works as a visual merchandiser for IKEA and also as a vocal coach.
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Song Description	In most years a Bond-esque song pops up above the parapet and this year it comes from Belgium. Orchestral strings meet a contemporary R&B feel with Sennek's beautiful vocals cascading over the top of the instrumentation.
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Selection Process	Sennek was the first announced artist for the 2018 contest, and both she and her song were internally selected by VRT.
Date Artist Announced	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
Date Song Announced	6 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1956
Years Competed	1956-1993, 1995-1996, 1998-2000, 2000 – present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	60
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1986)
Host Venue	Brussels 1987

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Blanche / City Lights
Finishing Position	4 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Equinox</b>
Title	<b>Bones</b>
Language	English
Composers	Borislav Milanov, Trey Campbell, Joacim Persson, Dag Lundberg

Artist Profile	Equinox are a collaborative project of five artists from both Bulgaria and the United States (Zhana Bergendorff, Trey Campbell, Johnny Manuel, Vladdi Mihailov, and Georgi "JJ" Simeonov). Their experiences are varied, but they come together in harmony as one unit.
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Song Description	Bulgaria's third consecutive song in collaboration with Vienna-based music production company Symphonix, this is a dark, haunting vocal piece. It's contemporary, urban and underscored by a drum beat that feel 'other-worldly' and hints of ethnic flair.
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Selection Process	Both the performers and the song were internally selected by BNT in consultation with four panels made up of domestic and international music professionals as well as ESC fans.
Date Announced	12 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2005
Years Competed	2005-2013, 2016 – present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	12
Best Position	2 <sup>nd</sup> (2016)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Kristian Kostov / Beautiful Mess
Finishing Position	2 <sup>nd</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist (Age)	<b>Franka Batelić</b>
Title	<b>Crazy</b>
Language	English
Composers	Music: Branimir Mihaljević Lyrics: Franka Batelić

Artist Profile	Franka is from Rijeka, Croatia and began her musical journey in a church choir. Following her secondary school education Franka spent some time studying at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts before returning to Croatia to attend Law School. Franka won the first season of <i>Showtime</i> in 2007. She attempted to represent Croatia at the 2009 Song Contest but finished 7th in the national final. Franka opened for Beyoncé's Zagreb concert in 2013.
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Song Description	Crazy is a sultry contemporary jazz ballad that includes spoken as well as sung lyrics.
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Selection Process	Both the artist and song were internally selected by the broadcaster HRT.
Date Artist Announced	13 <sup>th</sup> February
Date Song Announced	6 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1993
Years Competed	1993-2013, 2015 – present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	24
Best Position	4 <sup>th</sup> (1996, 1999)
Host Venue	Zagreb 1990 (as Yugoslavia)

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Jacques Houdek / My Friend
Finishing Position	13 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Eleni Foureira</b>
Title (Greek)	<b>Fuego</b>
Title (English)	<b>Fire</b>
Language	English
Composers	Alex Papaconstantinou

Artist Profile	Eleni was born in Albania but her family moved to Greece when she was a child and it is where she still calls home today. Formerly part of the Greek girl-band Mystique, Eleni pursued a solo career when the group disbanded in 2009. She had made several attempts to represent Greece at Eurovision but to no avail. Eleni has recorded 4 studio albums, 3 of which have made the top ten in Greece.
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Song Description	Fuego is a piece of pure power med-pop. It's mid-tempo with a strong vocal and an empowering message. She definitely has the fire!
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Selection Process	Both the artist and the song were internally selected by CyBC
Date Artist Announced	25 <sup>th</sup> January
Date Song Announced	2 <sup>nd</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1981
Years Competed	1981-1987, 1989-2000, 2002-2013, 2015-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	35
Best Position	5 <sup>th</sup> (1982, 1997, 2004)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Hovig / Gravity
Finishing Position	21 <sup>st</sup>

## EUROVISION SONG CONTEST 2018

Artist	<b>Mikolas Josef</b>
Title (English)	<b>Lie To Me</b>
Language	English
Composers	Music: Nikodem Milewski & Mikolas Josef Lyrics: Mikolas Josef

Artist Profile	22-year-old Mikolas began his musical career at 15 years old working with local producers and busking whenever he could. He went on to study and graduate from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art as a drama student.
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Song Description	The song is a strong mixture of pop, folk, funk and R&B. With a strong trumpet lead, and Mikolas's quirky personality, this song has been talked about since its release as the strongest song ever brought to Eurovision by the Czech Republic. Maybe this will see their second ever qualification to the final.
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Selection Process	The result of <i>Eurovision Song CZ</i> was determined by 50% jury vote made up of ten former ESC participants and 50% public vote made on the official ESC app.
Date Selected	29 <sup>th</sup> January

## EUROVISION SONG CONTEST HISTORY

Debut	2007
Years Competed	2007-2009, 2015-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	7
Best Position	25 <sup>th</sup> (2016)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION SONG CONTEST 2017

Artist/Song	Martina Bárta / My Turn
Finishing Position	NQ

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist (Age)	<b>Rasmussen</b>
Title (English)	<b>Higher Ground</b>
Language	English
Composers	Niclas Arn & Karl Eurén

Artist Profile	Jonas Rasmussen, known simply as Rasmussen, is the lead singer of 80's cover band Hair Metal Heroes. He also works as a stage actor and has performed in a number of musicals in Aarhus, where he currently lives with his wife and two young daughters, all of whom feature heavily on his Instagram page.
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Song Description	The song is inspired by the legend of an old Viking chieftain, Magnus Erlendsson, and the lyrics, which feature a phrase in Icelandic, are about trying to solve issues peacefully and without violence. It's an anthemic song which is delivered with power and presence.
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Selection Process	The popular national final show <i>Dansk Melodi Grand Prix</i> was used again to select the artist and song. The format uses two rounds of voting, the final and the superfinal, where the result is determined by 50% jury and 50% public vote.
Date Selected	10 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1957
Years Competed	1957-1966, 1968-1993, 1995, 1997, 1999-2002, 2004-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	47
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1963, 2000, 2013)
Host Venue	Copenhagen 1964, Copenhagen 2001, Copenhagen 2014

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Anja / Where I Am
Finishing Position	20 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Elina Nechayeva</b>
Title (Italian)	<b>La forza</b>
Title (English)	<b>The Force</b>
Language	Italian
Composers	Mihkel Mattisen, Timo Vendt, Ksenia Kuchukova, Elina Nechayeva

Artist Profile	Elena is a graduate of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre where she studied for a masters degree in classical music. Elena is a fan of classical music, citing Tchaikovsky and Mozart as two of her favourite composers. Beyond her music, Elena is a competent linguist, she speaks Estonian, English, Russian, French and Italian fluently.
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Song Description	La Forza is a classic piece of pop-opera with full orchestral accompaniment on the backing track allowi Elina's vocals to soar over the top of the arrangement.
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Selection Process	Estonia used its very popular national final <i>Eesti Laul</i> again to make its selection. Two semi finals leading to a grand final in which the result is determined by 50% jury and 50% public televote.
Date Selected	3 <sup>rd</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1994
Years Competed	1994, 1996 – present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	24
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (2001)
Host Venue	Tallinn 2002

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Koit Toome ft. Laura / Verona
Finishing Position	NQ



## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist (Age)	<b>Saara Aalto</b>
Title (English)	<b>Monsters</b>
Language	English
Composers	Saara Aalto, Joy Deb, Linnea Deb, Ki Fitzgerald

Artist Profile	Saara comes from Oulunsalo in northern Finland which basically means her neighbour is Santa! Saara came second in <i>The Voice of Finland</i> in 2012, and she has tried to represent Finland at ESC before in 2011 and 2016, placing second in the national final both times. Saara gained international recognition when she travelled to the UK to compete in <i>The X Factor</i> in 2016 where she finished as runner-up. As well as her beautiful singing voice, Saara also plays piano. She lives in London with her fiancé Meri and their dog Lili.
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Song Description	Monsters is a piece of 100% classic pop music with a message of strength and hope, penned by Saara along with two of the songwriters of Eurovision's 2015 winning song Heroes.
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Selection Process	Saara Aalto was selected internally by broadcaster Yle, and the song was selected using Finland's national final <i>Uuden Musiikin Kilpailu</i> (UMK) from three singles released over the three weeks preceding UMK.
Date Artist Announced	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
Date Song Announced	3 <sup>rd</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1961
Years Competed	1961-1969, 1971-1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	52
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (2006)
Host Venue	Helsinki 2007

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Norma John / Blackbird
Finishing Position	NQ

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Madame Monsieur</b>
Title	<b>Mercy</b>
Language	French
Composers	Émilie Satt and Jean-Karl Lucas

Artist Profile	The group Madame Monsieur is made up of couple Émilie Satt and Jean-Karl Lucas. This electro-pop duo have produced two studio albums, the latest of which was just released just before Eurovision. In the song writing process Émilie is the word crafter and Jean-Karl the musical composer. The two met in a bar in 2008, and they began performing as 'Madame Monsieur' in 2013.
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Song Description	This simply arranged contemporary electro-pop song tells the story of Mercy, a baby girl born at sea to a Nigerian refugee woman attempting to escape persecution and provide a better life for her child in Europe. At time of publication, this song had reached #3 in the French Pop Charts.
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Selection Process	After three years of internal selection by the broadcaster, France decided to let the viewers have a say this time. <i>Destination Eurovision</i> gave 50% to an international jury and 50% to the French public. It was widely talked about as one of the best selection shows of 2018
Date Selected	27 <sup>th</sup> January

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1956
Years Competed	1956-1973, 1975-1981, 1983 - present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	61
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1958, 1960, 1962, 1969, 1977)
Host Venue	Cannes 1959, Cannes 1961, Paris 1978

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Alma / Requiem
Finishing Position	12 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist (Age)	<b>Iriao</b>
Title (Georgian)	<b>Sheni gulistvis</b>
Title (English)	<b>For You</b>
Language	Georgian & English
Composers	Music: Davit Malazonia Lyrics: Irina Sanikidze

Artist Profile	Seven-piece jazz and ethnic folk group Iriao formed in 2013, and they've gone on to perform at the Borneo Jazz Festival in Malaysia. The leader of the group is David Malazonia. Because of Eurovision's six-performer rule, one member of the group was not able to attend the contest (in ESC Insight lingo, this is known as a 'Sad Tony!').
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Song Description	Close-harmonied Georgian polyphonic singing meets contemporary urban jazz in this fusion piece of music.
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Selection Process	Having initially teased news of a national final, GPB revealed on New Year's Eve that they had made an internal selection.
Date Artist Announced	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2017
Date Song Announced	13 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2007
Years Competed	2007-2008, 2010-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	11
Best Position	9 <sup>th</sup> (2010, 2011)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Tamara Gachechiladze / Keep the Faith
Finishing Position	NQ

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Michael Schulte</b>
Title	<b>You Let Me Walk Alone</b>
Language	English
Composers	Michael Schulte, Thomas Stengaard, Nisse Ingwersen, Nina Müller

Artist Profile	Michael competed in season one of <i>The Voice Germany</i> , finishing in 3rd place. Since then, he has released three albums and toured throughout Germany on an acoustic solo tour which included a performance at the famous Reeperbahn Festival in Hamburg.
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Song Description	An adult contemporary ballad with more than a hint of Ed Sheeran about it. The lyrics are a reflection of his feelings over losing his father at the age of 14.
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Selection Process	Germany continued to use its national final show <i>Unser Lied für Lissabon</i> to find their artist and song. Six artists competed and the result was determined by a combination of public televote, a Eurovision panel and an International jury.
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Date Selected	22 <sup>nd</sup> February
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## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1956
Years Competed	1956-1995, 1997-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	62
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1982, 2010)
Host Venue	Frankfurt am Main 1957, Munich 1983, Düsseldorf 2011

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Levina / Perfect Life
Finishing Position	25 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Yianna Terzi</b>
Title (Greek)	<b>Óneiró mou</b>
Title (English)	My Dream
Language	Greek
Composers	Gianna Terzi, Aris Kalimeris, Dimitris Stamatiou, Mihalis Papathanasiou

Artist Profile	Yianna is from Thessaloniki but now lives in the USA where she has found success with her first English language album. She has music in her family history; her father is the popular singer Paschalis Terzis.
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Song Description	The first song entirely in Greek from the country since 2010, this is a dramatic ballad full of ethnic flare.
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Selection Process	After two years of internal selection, Greece intended to use a national selection show called <i>Ellinikós Telikós</i> to find this year's artist and song. However, due to a number of disqualifications, "Óneiró mou" was the last song standing, and selected by default.
Date Announced	15 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1974
Years Competed	1974, 1976-1981, 1983, 1985, 1987-1998, 2001-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	39
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (2005)
Host Venue	Athens 2006

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Demi / This is Love
Finishing Position	19 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>AWS</b>
Title (Hungarian)	<b>Viszlát nyár</b>
Title (English)	<b>Goodbye Summer</b>
Language	Hungarian
Composers	Dániel Kökényes, Bence Brucker, Áron Veress, Soma Schizler

Artist Profile	AWS are a metal and post-hardcore band made up of Bence Brucker, Dániel Kökényes, Örs Siklósi and Áron Veress. They have been together since 2006, have released three albums and have toured extensively throughout Hungary and Central Europe. They are now one of the most sought-after bands on the Hungarian metal scene.
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Song Description	With a poignant verse melody and huge anthemic chorus, Viszlát Nyár examines bereavement from the point of the departed and those left behind. Whilst the performance boasts a powerful guitar sound and cathartic screamo breakdown, this song is not as violent or inaccessible as some pop fans may imagine.
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Selection Process	Hungary continued to use <i>A Dal</i> to find their artist and song. This consisted of three heats, two semi finals and a grand final which was voted on by a combination of public televote and professional jury.
Date Selected	24 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1994
Years Competed	1994-1998, 2005, 2007-2009, 2010-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	16
Best Position	4 <sup>th</sup> (1994)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Joci Pápai / Origo
Finishing Position	8 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Ari Ólafsson</b>
Title	<b>Our Choice</b>
Language	English
Composers	Þórunn Erna Clausen

Artist Profile	At 19 years old Ari is one of the youngest competitors at this year's contest. He began singing as a small child and developed a love of musical theatre; he has landed several roles in the National Theatre of Iceland. Ari competed in The Voice of Iceland in 2015. Following Eurovision Ari will continue his singing studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London.
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Song Description	Our Choice is an old fashioned ballad that harks back to the days of the classical Eurovision's of the 1990's. It was written by Þórunn Erna Clausen, the lyricist behind Iceland's 2011 entry, "Coming Home".
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Selection Process	Iceland's national selection show <i>Songvakeppnin</i> took place again this year. It consisted of two semi finals and a final of which the result was determined by a combination of jury and public voting.
Date Selected	3 <sup>rd</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1986
Years Competed	1986-1997, 1999-2001, 2003-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	31
Best Position	2 <sup>nd</sup> (1999, 2009)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Svala / Paper
Finishing Position	NQ

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Ryan O'Shaugnessy</b>
Title	<b>Together</b>
Language	English
Composers	Ryan O'Shaugnessy, Mark Copice, Laura Elizabeth Hughes

Artist Profile	Ryan's is well-known in Ireland for playing the role of Mark Halpin for almost 10 years in long-running Irish soap opera Fair City. Following this Ryan decided to pursue his first love, music. He appeared on The Voice of Ireland and Britain's Got Talent making it to the final of both. Ryan's self-penned hit song 'No Name' now has over 45 million YouTube hits he has toured the UK and Ireland, and finished his extensive USA & Canadian tour just a few weeks ago.
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Song Description	A sweet, broken-hearted love ballad about looking back on the dissolving of a relationship, Ryan delivers "Together" with a delicate touch and emotive voice.
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Selection Process	Both the artist and the song were internally selected by RTE
Date Announced	31 <sup>st</sup> January

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1965
Years Competed	1965-1982, 1984-2001, 2003 – present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	52
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1970, 1980, 1987, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996)
Host Venue	Dublin 1971, Dublin 1981, Dublin 1988, Millstreet 1993, Dublin 1994, Dublin 1995, Dublin 1997

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Brendan Murray
Finishing Position	NQ



## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Netta Barzilai</b>
Title	<b>Toy</b>
Language	English
Composers	Doron Medalie, Stav Beger

Artist Profile	25-year-old Netta Barzilai has been a student of music from a young age, getting her degree in Electronic Music and performing in the Israeli Navy Band. She purchased her first looper at 19, and has been using it in bands like improvised jam-band The Experiment.
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Song Description	Using Netta's powerhouse vocals and looper skills, this gutsy, innovative track blends pop and Middle Eastern motifs (with the occasional chicken cluck) with a playful, yet pertinent message about female empowerment.
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Selection Process	Europe's longest selection format <i>HaKokhav Haba</i> began looking for Israel's artist way back in September of 2017, during this season of the show 120 artists were whittled down to 1. The song will be chosen by the broadcaster.
Date Artist Announced	13 <sup>th</sup> February
Date Song Announced	10 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1973
Years Competed	1973-1979, 1981-1983, 1985-1993, 1995-1996, 1998-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	41
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1978, 1979, 1998)
Host Venue	Jerusalem 1979, Jerusalem 1999

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Imri Ziv / I Feel Alive
Finishing Position	23 <sup>rd</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Ermal Meta &amp; Fabrizio Moro</b>
Title (Italian)	<b>Non mi avete fatto niente</b>
Title (English)	<b>You did nothing to me</b>
Language	Italian
Composers	Ermal Meta, Fabrizio Moro, Andrea Febo

Artist Profile	<p>- Ermal Meta was born in Albania, but moved to Italy as a child. Starting off as the frontman of the bands Ameba4 and La Fame di Camilla, Meta competed solo in the Newcomer's division of Sanremo in 2016, coming in 3rd. In 2017, he placed 3rd in the Big Artists section of Sanremo with "Vietato Morire".</p> <p>- Fabrizio Moro, from Rome, won the 2007 Sanremo Newcomer's division with the song "Pensa". He also participated at Sanremo in 2008, 2010, and 2017, and composed songs for the 2012 and 2015 festivals, He's released nine studio albums.</p>
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Song Description	An emotional and raw song displaying defiance against terrorism in the shadow of attacks in Manchester, Barcelona, Nice, and other locations, Fabrizio's powerful, raspy vocals play off of Ermal's often-delicate tone in a way that can really grab an audience's attention.
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Selection Process	The winners of the <i>Sanremo Music Festival</i> (the contest on which the Eurovision Song Contest is based) are given first option to represent Italy at Eurovision. Metal and Moro confirmed on the night of their win that they would go to Lisbon.
Date Selected	10 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1956
Years Competed	1956-1980, 1983-1985, 1987-1993, 1997, 2011-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	44
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1964, 1990)
Host Venue	Naples 1965, Rome 1991

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Francesco Gabbani / Occidentalis Karma
Finishing Position	6 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Laura Rizzotto</b>
Title	<b>Funny Girl</b>
Language	English
Composers	Laura Rizzotto

Artist Profile	Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and raised and educated in the United States to Latvian-Brazilian parents, Laura draws musical inspiration from her diverse roots. She's worked as a Portuguese-language vocal coach to Jennifer Lopez, and was the opening act on the Brazilian leg of Demi Lovato's 2012 tour.
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Song Description	"Funny Girl" is a slinky, sultry ode to the pain of being relegated to the friend zone. If you imagine that your romantic advances are being spurned by James Bond, you have a pretty solid estimation of the feel of this song.
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Selection Process	Continuing with the ever-so popular <i>Supernova</i> , Latvia again used this national selection show to find their artist and song. The winner of the grand final was determined entirely by public televote.
Date Selected	24 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2000
Years Competed	2000-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	19
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (2002)
Host Venue	Riga 2003

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Triana Park / Line
Finishing Position	NQ

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Ieva Zasimauskaitė</b>
Title	<b>When We're Old</b>
Language	English
Composers	Vytautas Bikus

Artist Profile	24-year-old Kaunas-native Ieva has been singing since childhood, but it was her stint on <i>Lietuvos balsas</i> (the local edition of <i>The Voice</i> ) that brought her fame. She had previously tried to sing for Lithuania at Eurovision in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2017.
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Song Description	A sweet and understated little ballad about finding a love to grow old with, Ieva delivers "When We're Old" with earnest simplicity, and you may find yourself getting teary-eyed. Be warned.
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Selection Process	In one of Europe's longest national final formats, the 8 heats of <i>Eurovizijos</i> kicked off on the first weekend of the year and finished with a 10 act final where the result was determined by combination of jury and televote.
Date Selected	11 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1994
Years Competed	1994, 1999, 2001-2002, 2004-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	19
Best Position	6 <sup>th</sup> (2006)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Fusedmarc / Rain of Revolution
Finishing Position	NQ

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Eye Cue</b>
Title	<b>Lost and Found</b>
Language	English
Composers	Bojan Trajkovski, Darko Dimitrov

Artist Profile	Eye Cue was founded in 2008 by Bojan Trajkovski and Marija Ivanovska. They've had a number of hits on the charts throughout the Adriatic region, and in 2015 they won SkopjeFest with their song "Ubava".
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Song Description	"Lost and Found" combines elements of pop, indie, and even reggae into a slick, well-produced package. We haven't seen FYR Macedonia in the finals since Kaliopi's legendary "Crno i belo" in 2012...can Eye Cue succeed where so many others have failed?
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Selection Process	Both the artist and the song were selected internally by the broadcaster.
Date Artist Announced	13 <sup>th</sup> February
Date Song Announced	11 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1998
Years Competed	1998, 2000, 2002, 2004-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	18
Best Position	12 <sup>th</sup> (2006)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Jana Burčeska / Dance Alone
Finishing Position	NQ

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist (Age)	<b>Christabelle</b>
Title (English)	<b>Taboo</b>
Language	English
Composers	Johnny Sanchez, Thomas G'son, Christabelle Borg, Muxu

Artist Profile	26-year-old Christabelle Borg has been singing since the age of three, and is also an accomplished television presenter, having hosted a few youth programs on local stations. She attempted to sing for Malta at Eurovision in 2014, 2015, and 2016, coming as close as second place with 2015's "Rush".
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Song Description	Malta is rarely a nation that tackles big social issues through their Eurovision entries, but "Taboo" makes the point to discuss mental health through high-energy, anthemic pop.
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Selection Process	Malta continued to use the hugely popular <i>Malta Eurovision Song Contest</i> show to find their artist and song. The result was determined by a combination of jury and televote.
Date Selected	3 <sup>rd</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1971
Years Competed	1971-1972, 1974-1976, 1990-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	31
Best Position	2 <sup>nd</sup> (2002, 2005)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Claudio Faniello / Breathlessly
Finishing Position	NQ

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>DoReDos</b>
Title (English)	<b>My Lucky Day</b>
Language	English
Composers	Philipp Kirkorov, John Ballard

Artist Profile	This trio from Transnistria (Marina Djundiet, Eugeniu Andrianov, and Sergiu Mita) have been performing together since 2011. Together, they have participated in Romania's edition of <i>X Factor</i> , won the 2017 "New Wave" festival, and participated in the 2015 and 2016 Moldovan National Finals.
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Song Description	Bouncy and full of folky flair, "My Lucky Day" is pure fun, and feels like a natural successor to last year's "Hey Mama".
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Selection Process	Moldova continued to use its show <i>O melodia pentru Europa</i> to select the artist and song. The winner was selected via a combined jury and televote.
Date Selected	24 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2005
Years Competed	2005-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	14
Best Position	3 <sup>rd</sup> (2017)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Sunstroke Project / Hey Mama
Finishing Position	3 <sup>rd</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Vanja Radovanović</b>
Title (Montenegrin)	<b>Inje</b>
Title (English)	<b>Frost</b>
Language	Montenegrin
Composers	Vanja Radovanović

Artist Profile	35-year-old Vanja has been participating in regional festivals since 2004, and has released three solo albums and an EP.
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Song Description	Montenegro's bringing this year's "Big Balkan Ballad", full of sweeping drama and high emotion. The last time this country sent a ballad, "Adio" brought the country it's highest placement to date. Will Vanja repeat history?
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Selection Process	Montenegro had not held a national final since 2008, last year they announced they would again hold a national final called <i>Montevizija</i> . The winner being determined entirely by public vote.
Date Selected	17 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2007
Years Competed	2007-2009, 2012-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	10
Best Position	13 <sup>th</sup> (2015)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Slavko Kalezić / Space
Finishing Position	NQ



# The Netherlands

SLOT 8, SEMIFINAL 2

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Waylon</b>
Title	<b>Outlaw in 'Em</b>
Language	English
Composers	Waylon

Artist Profile	Waylon is no stranger to Eurovision having come 2 <sup>nd</sup> in 2014 with the band The Common Linnets and the song "Calm After the Storm". Waylon (real name Willem Bijkerk) has been a fan of country music since childhood and in 2009 was the first Dutch artist ever to be signed by Universal Music to the Motown record label. Since then, Waylon has released 3 albums.
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Song Description	"Outlaw in 'Em" may be another country entry from the Dutch, but it has a very different vibe from the laid-back "Calm After the Storm" or bluesy "Slow Down". True to its name, Waylon's serving up a rollicking slice of guitar-driven country-rock.
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Selection Process	Both the artist and song were internally selected by broadcaster.
Date Artist Announced	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
Date Song Announced	3 <sup>rd</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1956
Years Competed	1956-1984, 1986-1990, 1992-1994, 1996-2001, 2003-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	59
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1957, 1959, 1969, 1975)
Host Venue	Hilversum 1958, Amsterdam 1970, The Hague 1976, The Hague 1980

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	O'G3NE / Lights and Shadows
Finishing Position	11 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Alexander Rybak</b>
Title	<b>That's How You Write a Song</b>
Language	English
Composers	Alexander Rybak

Artist Profile	Alexander Rybak, who will turn 32 the day after the Eurovision Final, is best known as the winner of the 2009 Contest with the song "Fairytale". Since then, the Belarus-born Rybak has released a number of studio albums, as well as hit singles in three different languages.
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Song Description	Rybak brings irrepressible charm and energy to "That's How You Write a Song", which he was inspired to write after reading fan mail from children asking how to be a musician.
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Selection Process	Norway continued to use its national selection show <i>Melodi Grand Prix</i> , which began in 1960 to select their artist and song.
Date Selected	10 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1960
Years Competed	1960-1969, 1971-2001, 2003-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	57
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1985, 1995, 2009)
Host Venue	Bergen 1986, Oslo 1996, Bærum 2010

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Jowst / Grab the Moment
Finishing Position	10 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Gromee featuring Lukas Meijer</b>
Title	<b>Light Me Up</b>
Language	English
Composers	Gromee, Lukas Meijer, Mahan Moin, Christian Rabb

Artist Profile	39-year-old Gromee (Andrzej Gromala) is a DJ and producer from Kraków. He's been releasing singles on the Polish market since 2011, with a number of Top 20 hits since then. Stockholm native Lukas Meijer is the lead singer of the band No Sleep for Lucy, and had previously collaborated with Gromee on the hit song "Without You".
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Song Description	An uplifting, danceable track, "Light Me Up" feels current and contemporary.
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Selection Process	Poland again used its national final <i>Krajowe Eliminacje</i> to find its artist and song. Ten artists competed in the final and the result was determined by a combination of televote and a 5 person jury.
Date Selected	3 <sup>rd</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1994
Years Competed	1994-1999, 2001, 2003-2011, 2014-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	21
Best Position	2 <sup>nd</sup> (1994)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Kasia Moś / Flashlight
Finishing Position	22 <sup>nd</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Cláudia Pascoal</b>
Title (Portuguese)	<b>O jardim</b>
Title (English)	<b>The Garden</b>
Language	Portuguese
Composers	Isaura

Artist Profile	23-year-old Cláudia Pascoal is an alum of a number of televised vocal competitions, including <i>Factor X</i> and <i>Ídolos</i> . Her biggest success came with her appearance on <i>The Voice Portugal</i> last year, where she came in 6th place. Appearing with Cláudia will be singer-songwriter Isaura, who composed "O jardim".
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Song Description	This is a seemingly simple ballad with a haunting and sparse arrangement, carried by Cláudia's ethereal vocals. A heartbreaking, delicate entry about carrying on after losing a loved one, <i>O jardim</i> was written following the death of Isaura's grandmother.
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Selection Process	10 Finalists qualified from two semi finals of <i>Festival da Canção</i> , to compete in the national final. The winner was decided by a combination of public televote and professional jury.
Date Selected	4 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1964
Years Competed	1964-1969, 1971-1999, 2001, 2003-2012, 2014-2015, 2016-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	50
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (2017)
Host Venue	Lisbon 2018

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Salvador Sobral / Amar Pelas Dois
Finishing Position	1 <sup>st</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>The Humans</b>
Title	<b>Goodbye</b>
Language	English
Composers	Matei Alexandru, Alin Neagoe, Christina Caramarcu

Artist Profile	The Humans (Cristina Caramarcu, Alexandru Cismaru, Alexandru Matei, Alin Neagoe, and Adi Tetrade) are a relatively new band, and "Goodbye" is only their second single.
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Song Description	This pop-rock track has a comforting late-80's/early-'90s feel, complete with a soaring, anthemic chorus. If the Altice Arena allowed for lighters to be on the premises, I'd imagine people would have them in the air for this entry. Cell phone lights will have to do.
------------------	--

Selection Process	Romania returned to its popular national final show <i>Selecția Națională</i> to select their song and artist, the result being a combination of jury and televote points.
Date Selected	25 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1994
Years Competed	1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002-2015, 2017-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	19
Best Position	3 <sup>rd</sup> (2005, 2010)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Ilîncea ft. Alex Florea / Yodel It
Finishing Position	7 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Yulia Samoylova</b>
Title	<b>I Won't Break</b>
Language	English
Composers	Arie Burshtein, Leonid Gutkin, Netta Nimrodi

Artist Profile	29-year-old Yulia first became known following her run in <i>Faktor A</i> in 2013 and her performance in the Opening Ceremony at the Sochi Paralympics the following year. She was selected by Russia's Channel One to perform at Eurovision 2017, but due to legal restrictions placed on her following a performance in Crimea, she was barred from entering Ukrainian territory and Russia was forced to withdraw. She lives with spinal muscular atrophy, and has used a wheelchair since childhood.
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Song Description	"I Won't Break" is a gentle mid-tempo song that still provides considerably more "oomph" than her entry last year, "Flame is Burning". It's got a memorable chorus and story, but is it enough to keep Russia's qualification streak intact?
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Selection Process	Yulia was selected by the broadcaster to represent Russia in 2017, however Russia subsequently withdrew from the contest but said that they would send Yulia this year. The song was also internally selected by Russia-1.
Date Artist Confirmed	29 <sup>th</sup> January
Date Song Announced	11 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1994
Years Competed	1994-1997, 2000-2016, 2018
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	21
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (2008)
Host Venue	Moscow 2009

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Did not participate
Finishing Position	Did not participate

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Jessika featuring Jenifer Brening</b>
Title (English)	<b>Who We Are</b>
Language	English
Composers	Jenifer Brening, Stefan Moessle, Mathias Strasser, Zoë Straub, Christof Straub

Artist Profile	Jessika Muscat is a stalwart on the Maltese music scene, having submitted songs to the nation's Eurovision Preselection every year since 2008. She is also a regular on a Maltese soap opera, <i>Ħbieb u Għedewwa</i> . Jenifer Brening, from Berlin, has taken part in a few German talent searches, and released an independent album in 2016.
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Song Description	An accidental collaboration (as Jenifer stepped in to rap after Sammarinese artist Irol backed out at the last minute), this is a safe and positive pop number that might not ruffle any feathers, but is sure to be a bit of fun.
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Selection Process	San Marino turned to <i>1in360</i> and <i>Global Rockstar</i> to host an online talent show to find their artist. 11 acts from the 1050 submissions were selected, 8 by the producers and 3 wildcards, to make the final.
Date Announced	3 <sup>rd</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2008
Years Competed	2008, 2011-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	9
Best Position	24 <sup>th</sup> (2014)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Valentina Monetta & Jimmie Wilson / Spirit of the Night
Finishing Position	NQ

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Sanja Ilić &amp; Balkanika</b>
Title (Serbian)	<b>Nova deca</b>
Title (English)	<b>New Children</b>
Language	Serbian
Composers	Sanja Ilić, Tanja Ilić, Danica Krstajić

Artist Profile	Sanja Ilić is a veteran performer, composer, and producer, whose discography includes writing the Yugoslavian entry for Eurovision 1982, "Halo, Halo". Ilić founded Balkanika in 1998 to fuse classic Balkan musical traditions with modern sounds. The line up at Eurovision will include Aleksandar Radulović, Ljubomir Dimitrijević, Nevena Stamenković, Danica Krstić, Mladen Lukić, and Ilić himself.
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Song Description	Blending pop, electronica, and traditional Balkan harmonies, "Nova deca" is a stirring entry about love and the hope that new generations bring.
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Selection Process	After 2 years of internal selection, Serbian chose to return to their original national final show of <i>Beovizija</i> to select their artist for 2018 which was widely regarded as one of the best national finals of the season.
Date Selected	20 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2007
Years Competed	2007-2013, 2015-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	11
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (2007)
Host Venue	Belgrade 2008

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Tijana Bogićević / In Too Deep
Finishing Position	NQ



## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Lea Sirk</b>
Title (Slovene)	<b>Hvala, ne!</b>
Title (English)	<b>Thanks, no!</b>
Language	Slovene
Composers	Lea Sirk, Tomy DeClerque

Artist Profile	Lea Sirk has appeared as a backing singer at Eurovision 2014 and 2016, and had made previous attempts to sing for Slovenia at the National Finals in 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2017. Last year, she performed in the local edition of "Your Face Sounds Familiar", where she even portrayed Salvador Sobral.
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Song Description	The first entry purely in Slovene since 2012, "Hvala, ne!" is a high-energy, empowering entry with a strong message about self-confidence.
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Selection Process	Again the national final show EMA was used to find Slovenia's artist and song. There was a semi final and a final and the result was determined by a combination of a jury and televote.
Date Selected	24 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1993
Years Competed	1993, 1995-1999, 2001-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	24
Best Position	7 <sup>th</sup> (1995, 2001)
Host Venue	-

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Omar Naber / On My Way
Finishing Position	NQ

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Alfred &amp; Amaia</b>
Title (Spanish)	<b>Tu canción</b>
Title (English)	<b>Your Song</b>
Language	Spanish
Composers	Raúl Gómez, Sylvia Santoro

Artist Profile	Alfred García (age 21, from near Barcelona) and Amaia Romero (age 19, from Pamplona) met on the set of <i>Operación Triunfo</i> , where their natural chemistry charmed the voting public...and each other.
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Song Description	What could possibly be more romantic than a young couple in love, singing to a waltz? Some may adore this entry's sugar-sweet innocence, and others may find themselves reaching for their insulin, but the entry is absolutely charming.
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Selection Process	After last year's controversial national selection show, Spain returned to using the show <i>Operación Triunfo</i> to select their act.
Date Selected	29 <sup>th</sup> January

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1961
Years Competed	1961 - present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	58
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1968, 1969)
Host Venue	Madrid 1969

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Manel Navarro / Do It for Your Lover
Finishing Position	26 <sup>th</sup>

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Benjamin Ingrosso</b>
Title	<b>Dance You Off</b>
Language	English
Composers	MAG, Louis Schoorl, K Nita, Benjamin Ingrosso

Artist Profile	Son of schlager legend Pernilla Wahlgren and dancer Emilio Ingrosso, 20-year-old Benjamin has performance in his DNA. He won <i>Lilla Melodifestivalen</i> in 2006, which led to a 4th place finish at <i>MGP Nordic</i> . His 2017 debut at <i>Melodifestivalen</i> , with "Good Lovin'", brought him to a respectable 5th place in the National Final.
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Song Description	"Dance You Off" is classic Swedish pop: a charismatic singer, danceable beat, and great hook. It might not be as innovative as other Swedish entries of the past, but it's certainly an entertaining three minutes that will get you on your feet.
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Selection Process	Arguably Eurovision's most notable national final, <i>Melodifestivalen</i> saw 40 acts compete across 4 semi-finals, with 10 acts reaching the final in Stockholm.
Date Selected	10 <sup>th</sup> March

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	1958
Years Competed	1958-1963, 1965-1969, 1971-1975, 1978 – present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	58
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1974, 1984, 1991, 1999, 2012, 2015)
Host Venue	Stockholm 1975, Gothenburg 1985, Malmö 1992, Stockholm 2000, Malmö 2013, Stockholm 2016

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Robin Bengtsson / I Can't Go On
Finishing Position	5th

## EUROVISION SONG CONTEST 2018

Artist	<b>Zibbz</b>
Title	<b>Stones</b>
Language	English
Composers	Corinne "Coco" Gfeller, Stefan "Stee" Gfeller, Laurell Barker

Artist Profile	"Zibbz" comes from truncating the word "siblings", and this brother-sister duo from near Lucerne have been working together musically for a decade. Splitting their time between Switzerland and Los Angeles, Coco and Stee have released two studio albums.
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Song Description	"Stones" is a gutsy, yet accessible pop-rock track with a strong message against bullying. This is arguably Switzerland's hardest-hitting song since 2012's "Unbreakable"...can they surpass Sinplus and bring the Swiss back into the final for the first time since 2014?
------------------	---

Selection Process	Switzerland used its regular national final <i>Die Entscheidungsshow</i> but refreshed the format and the production of the show for 2018. There were 6 participants in the show with the result decided by jury vote and public televote.
Date Selected	4 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION SONG CONTEST HISTORY

Debut	1956
Years Competed	1956-1994, 1996-1998, 2000, 2002, 2004-present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	59
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1956, 1988)
Host Venue	Lugano 1956, Lausanne 1989

## EUROVISION SONG CONTEST 2017

Artist/Song	Timebelle / Apollo
Finishing Position	NQ

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>Mélovin</b>
Title	<b>Under the Ladder</b>
Language	English
Composers	Mike Ryals, Kostyantyn Bocharov, Anton Karskyi

Artist Profile	Born Kostyantyn Bocharov, 21-year-old Mélovin has been making waves in the Ukrainian music scene since he won the local edition of <i>X Factor</i> in 2015. With his rich voice and eclectic style (especially his trademark heterochromia), Mélovin has become a local sensation. Last year, he came in third place in Ukraine's national final with the song "Wonder", clinching the highest score from the public televote. He released his first EP, <i>Face to Face</i> , in 2017.
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Song Description	"Under the Ladder" mixes a driving beat, an anthemic chorus, and a charismatic singer. The National Final performance incorporated some eye-catching effects (including some awesome camera angles and flaming scaffolding), and Ukraine is known for using innovative staging. This may be one to watch.
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Selection Process	Ukraine continues to use the national final show <i>Vibdir</i> to find their representative. The show consisted of two semi finals and a final, with the winner being determined by a combination of public and jury votes.
Date Selected	24 <sup>th</sup> February

## EUROVISION Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003-2014, 2016 - present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	15
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (2004, 2016)
Host Venue	Kyiv 2005, Kyiv 2017

## EUROVISION Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	O Torvald / Time
Finishing Position	24 <sup>th</sup>

## Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	<b>SuRie</b>
Title	<b>Storm</b>
Language	English
Composers	Nicole Blair, Gil Lewis, Sean Hargreaves

Artist Profile	SuRie (real name: Susanna Marie Cork) is a singer songwriter and graduate of the Royal College of Music. She has performed with the Belgian delegation twice at the Eurovision Song Contest, as a backing singer and dancer for Loïc Nottet in 2015 and as musical director and off-stage backing vocalist for Blanche in 2017, both achieving 4 <sup>th</sup> place for Belgium. SuRie lives in London with her dog Evie, who has become quite the star on social media.
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Song Description	An bright track with a danceable beat and inspirational message, SuRie is bringing one of the more uplifting tracks this year. With her knowledge of the inner workings of Eurovision (as she was behind the scenes in 2015 and 2017), can she give the UK the edge and get the country its highest placing of the decade?
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Selection Process	For the third year running, the UK used the show <i>Eurovision: You Decide</i> to select their artist. There were 6 selected acts and the final score was a combination of jury and public televote. The UK's national final is the only one to announce only the winner and not announce or publish all the final scores.
Date Selected	7 <sup>th</sup> February

## Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	1957
Years Competed	1957, 1959 – present
No. of ESC (incl 2018)	61
Best Position	1 <sup>st</sup> (1967, 1969, 1976, 1981, 1997)
Host Venue	London 1960, London 1963, London 1968, Edinburgh, 1972, Brighton 1974, London 1977, Harrogate 1982, Birmingham 1998

## Eurovision Song Contest 2017

Artist/Song	Lucie Jones / I Will Never Give Up on You
Finishing Position	15 <sup>th</sup>

# EUROVISION 2018 FACTS & FIGURES:

## Who'll be performing:

(43 nations, surpassing last year's total by one, tying the record set in 2008 and 2011):

Solo Female (16): Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, United Kingdom

Solo Male (14): Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Montenegro, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, Ukraine

Duos (6): France, Italy, Poland, San Marino, Spain, Switzerland

Groups and Collaborations (7): Bulgaria, Georgia, Hungary, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia

## How they were chosen:

National Final (28): Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy\*, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom

(\* - The winner of Italy's San Remo Festival is given first right of refusal for the ticket to Eurovision. This year, the winner accepted the invitation.)

Partial National Final:

Public artist selection, internal song selection (1): Israel

Internal artist selection, public song selection (1): Finland

Internal Selection (12): Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Ireland, FYR Macedonia, Russia, The Netherlands

Other (1): Greece (Greece was due to have a national final, but due to a series of disqualifications and withdrawals, only one song was left standing, and will be sent to Lisbon by default.)

## What language will the song be performed in?

English (30): Austria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Ukraine, United Kingdom

No English (13, the highest since 2013): Albania, Armenia, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain

## How many have had previous involvement with Eurovision?

Australia: Jessica Mauboy performed as the Second Semifinal's interval act in 2014, singing "Sea of Flags"

Austria: Cesár Sampson was a backing singer for Bulgaria in 2016 and 2017.

Bulgaria: Vladdi Mihailov was a backing singer for Bulgaria in 2017.

Norway: Alexander Rybak was the winner of the 2009 Contest with "Fairytale".

Serbia: Sanja Ilić, the man behind Balkanika, composed Yugoslavia's 1982 entry, "Halo, Halo", performed by Aska. The song came in 14th place of 18.

Slovenia: Lea Sirk was a backing vocalist for Slovenia in 2014 and 2016.

Russia: Yulia Samoylova was intended to be Russia's entrant at the 2017 Eurovision Song Contest, but due to her legal inability to enter Ukrainian territory, her participation was deferred.

The Netherlands: Waylon, as one half of the Common Linnets, came in second place in 2014 with "Calm After the Storm".

United Kingdom: SuRie was a backing singer for Belgium in 2015 and 2017.



## QUICK REFERENCE



**Albania**  
Eugent Bushpepa



**Armenia**  
Sevak Khanagyan



**Australia**  
Jessica Mauboy



**Austria**  
Cesár Sampson



**Azerbaijan**  
Aisel



**Belarus**  
Alekseev



**Belgium**  
Sennek



**Bulgaria**  
EQUINOX



**Croatia**  
Franka Batelić



**Cyprus**  
Eleni Fouriera



**Czech Republic**  
Mikolas Josef



**Denmark**  
Rasmussen



**Estonia**  
Elina Nechayeva



**Finland**  
Saara Aalto



**France**  
Madame Monsieur



**Germany**  
Michael Schulte





**Georgia**  
Iriao



**Greece**  
Yianni Terzi



**Hungary**  
AWS



**Iceland**  
Ari Ólafsson



**Ireland**  
Ryan O'Shaughnessy



**Israel**  
Netta Barzilai



**Italy**  
Ermal Meta &  
Fabrizio Moro



**Latvia**  
Laura Rizzotto



**Lithuania**  
Ieva Zasimauskaitė



**Macedonia**  
Eye Cue



**Malta**  
Christabelle Borg



**Moldova**  
DoReDos



**Montenegro**  
Vanja Radovanović



**The Netherlands**  
Waylon



**Norway**  
Alexander Rybak



**Poland**  
Gromee feat. Lukas  
Meijer



**Portugal**  
Cláudia Pascoal



**Romania**  
The Humans



**Russia**  
Yulia Samoylova



**San Marino**  
Jessika feat. Jenifer  
Brening



**Serbia**  
Sanja Ilić & Balkanika



**Slovenia**  
Lea Sirk



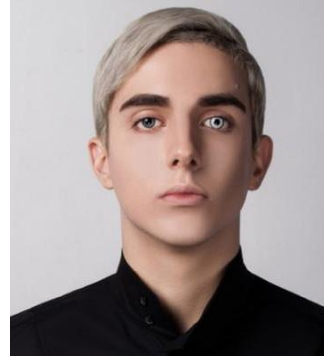
**Spain**  
Alfred and Amaia



**Sweden**  
Benjamin Ingrosso



**Switzerland**  
Zibbz



**Ukraine**  
Mélovin



**United Kingdom**  
SuRie

# FOR the MUSIC NERDS!

Country	Artist	Song	Key	Bpm
Albania	Eugent Bushpepa	Mall	E	68
Armenia	Sevak Khanagyan	Qami	Dm	76
Australia	Jessica Mauboy	We Got Love	G	115
Austria	Cesár Sampson	Nobody but You	Bm	90
Azerbaijan	Aisel	X My Heart	Eb	120
Belarus	Alekseev	Forever	Am	110
Belgium	Sennek	A Matter of Time	Cm	88
Bulgaria	Equinox	Bones	C#m	91
Croatia	Franka Batelić	Crazy	Am	66
Cyprus	Eleni Foureira	Fuego	Bm	101
Czech Republic	Mikolas Josef	Lie to Me	F#m	108
Denmark	Rasmussen	Higher Ground	D/Am	83
Estonia	Elina Nechayeva	La Forza	Dm	48
Finland	Saara Aalto	Monsters	Cm	122
France	Madame Monsieur	Mercy	Em	100
Georgia	Iriao	For You (Sheni Gulistvis)	G	65
Germany	Michael Schulte	You Let Me Walk Alone	B	75
Greece	Yianni Terzi	Óneiró mou	C#m	78
Hungary	AWS	Viszlát nyár	Ebm/Fm	164
Iceland	Ari Ólafsson	Our Choice	B	66
Ireland	Ryan O'Shaughnessy	Together	F	95
Israel	Netta Barzilai	Toy	Ebm	131
Italy	Ermal Meta & Fabrizio Moro	Non mi avete fatto niente	Ebm	90
Latvia	Laura Rizzotto	Funny Girl	Dm	118
Lithuania	Ieva Zasimauskaitė	When We're Old	Bb	92
FYR Macedonia	Eye Cue	Lost and Found	Cm	122
Malta	Christabelle Borg	Taboo	G	123
Moldova	DoReDos	My Lucky Day	Dm	124
Montenegro	Vanja Radovanović	Inje	Gm	83
Netherlands	Waylon	Outlaw in 'Em	Em	87
Norway	Alexander Rybak	That's How You Write a Song	Fm	105
Poland	Gromee feat. Lukas Meijer	Light Me Up	Bm	122
Portugal	Cláudia Pascoal	O Jardim	Bb	111
Romania	The Humans	Goodbye	E	102
Russia	Yulia Samoylova	I Won't Break	G#m	92
San Marino	Jessika feat. Jenifer Brening	Who We Are	G#m	128
Serbia	Sanja Ilić & Balkanika	Nova deca	Bm	122
Slovenia	Lea Sirk	Hvala, ne!	Ebm	140
Spain	Alfred & Amaia	Tu Canzion	C	120
Sweden	Benjamin Ingrosso	Dance You Off	Fm	110
Switzerland	Zibbz	Stones	Am	85
Ukraine	Mélovin	Under the Ladder	Bbm	120
United Kingdom	SuRie	Storm	Bb	118



## Quick Reference

Country	Artist	Song
Albania	Eugent Bushpepa	Mall
Armenia	Sevak Khanagyan	Qami
Australia	Jessica Mauboy	We Got Love
Austria	Cesár Sampson	Nobody but You
Azerbaijan	Aisel	X My Heart
Belarus	Alekseev	Forever
Belgium	Sennek	A Matter of Time
Bulgaria	Equinox	Bones
Croatia	Franka Batelić	Crazy
Cyprus	Eleni Foureira	Fuego
Czech Republic	Mikolas Josef	Lie to Me
Denmark	Rasmussen	Higher Ground
Estonia	Elina Nechayeva	La Forza
Finland	Saara Aalto	Monsters
France	Madame Monsieur	Mercy
Georgia	Iriao	For You (Sheni Gulistvis)
Germany	Michael Schulte	You Let Me Walk Alone
Greece	Yianni Terzi	Óneiró mou
Hungary	AWS	Viszlát nyár
Iceland	Ari Ólafsson	Our Choice
Ireland	Ryan O'Shaughnessy	Together
Israel	Netta Barzilai	Toy
Italy	Ermal Meta & Fabrizio Moro	Non mi avete fatto niente
Latvia	Laura Rizzotto	Funny Girl
Lithuania	Ieva Zasimauskaitė	When We're Old
FYR Macedonia	Eye Cue	Lost and Found
Malta	Christabelle Borg	Taboo
Moldova	DoReDos	My Luck Day
Montenegro	Vanja Radovanović	Inje
Netherlands	Waylon	Outlaw in 'Em
Norway	Alexander Rybak	That's How You Write a Song
Poland	Gromee feat. Lukas Meijer	Light Me Up
Portugal	Cláudia Pascoal	O Jardim
Romania	The Humans	Goodbye
Russia	Yulia Samoylova	I Won't Break
San Marino	Jessika feat. Jenifer Brening	Who We Are
Serbia	Sanja Ilić & Balkanika	Nova deca
Slovenia	Lea Sirk	Hvala, ne!
Spain	Alfred & Amaia	Tu Canzion
Switzerland	Zibbz	Stones
Ukraine	Mélovín	Under the Ladder
United Kingdom	SuRie	Storm